Fixing norms for storage shortage

1822. SHRI R K. ANAND. Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Managers, FCI are to fix the norms of storage shortage;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no such norms have been fixed and the Corporation has accounted for total storage shortages to the extent of 2 3 lakh MT, 2.94 lakh MT and 2.51 lakh MT valuing Rs. 205.44 crores, 268.79 crores and Rs. 243 74 crores during 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 respectively;

(c) if so, the reasons for not fixing norms, for suffering such huge storage shortage causing huge losses of public money;

(d) whether such norms have been fixed now; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Losses occur in foodgrain storage due to drainage of moisture; spillage due to packing in jute gunnies; multiple handling by labourers; weevling; rat, bird and rodent trouble and long storage.

Fixing norms or permissible limits for storage and transit losses may become a benchmark and therefore, is not considered desirable. No loss is considered reasonable without detailed investigation. Each and every case is therefore, investigated considering various factors responsible for the loss, including dereliction of duties by the concerned officials.

Storage losses reported by FCI for the years 1997-98, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 are as follows.

Year	Qty of loss (in lakh MTs.)	Value of loss	%age to qty. issued
97-98	1.78	130.94	0.41
98-99	2.41	195 23	0.54
99-00	1.72	157.25	0.34